



King County
Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Solid Waste Division

Class Act

School Recycling Program Newsletter — November 2006

Hazards on the Homefront Project News

I will continue to keep the environment hazard-free by making right choices and looking at the labels and only use the chemical that has warning, caution, or nothing on the material.

- Jessica, sixth-grade, Pine Tree Elementary

After attending the King County *Hazards on the Homefront* teacher training in August, sixth grade teachers **Julie Timm** and **Kristi Smith** at **Pine Tree Elementary** in Kent jumped right in to teach their students about how products enter our environment. They taught them to read product labels for signal words and to consider alternative choices for hazardous products. Smith said, "This information brought about fantastic conversations in the classroom, and I know it was very eye-opening for my students." Timm's students also

plan to teach their second grade buddies how to stay safe in their homes. They will make posters together to further share the information. When asked what they had learned, students said that they now can recognize how hazardous a product is by its signal words, the difference between storm drains and sewers, and how washing cars in the driveway can impact salmon.

Julie Smith's tenth-grade health students at **Kentlake High School** integrated lessons into a unit on environmental health. In addition to learning about household hazardous products, the students conducted a campus clean-up, picking up trash on campus and along the road leading to the school.

Visit the [Hazards on the Homefront](#) page for more information about the program, including classroom projects and lessons developed by teachers.



Sample cards from the *Concentration Game*.



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King County Launches New EcoConnections Program for Secondary Schools

Secondary teachers can now find and schedule all the King County Solid Waste Division secondary classroom presentations with just one phone call or email. Biodiversity in Our World, Biospheres,

Hazardous Household Products Made Fun and Simple

Teachers can now download simple, quick and [fun activities](#) for classroom use in grades 4-12

- *Toxic Free Bingo* teaches students about safer alternatives for various home cleaning and maintenance projects.
- Students sharpen their memories with the *Concentration Game* and find important words to look for on a product label.
- *Disposal* lets students discuss and vote on the good and not-so-good options for getting rid of unused hazardous products.
- Student can take home directions for a simple, home-made *Slug Trap*.

These activities are especially valuable as King County educators will be visiting fewer classrooms in the future.

Green Team Projects Underway!



Students from Northshore's Secondary Academy for Success (SAS) prepare the land for planting lettuce at the 21 Acres Community Garden.

Several Green Teams have been busy this fall getting their recycling programs publicized and underway. Students at **Thomas Jefferson High**, **Evergreen High** and **Redmond Junior High** continue to encourage fellow students to participate in recycling programs. Presentations during lunch and through daily announcements cover what is and is not recyclable, the benefits of recycling, and updates on recycling program changes.

At **Thoreau Elementary**, Marie Hartford and her third grade students just received a mini-grant to expand their recycling program to include food composting. The compost will be used in a raised bed garden where the students plan to grow edible plants. As a result of the project, students will gain an understanding of the life cycle process and how food waste can become food for plants.

Students at Northshore's **Secondary Academy for Success (SAS)** worked with Growing Washington managers at the 21 Acres Community Garden, helping them prepare the land for planting lettuce. Growing Washington will use produce from the farm to stock salad bars at several local school districts as part of the *Farm to Cafeteria* program. SAS students, organized by 10 student Green Team leaders and teachers Barbara Wilson, Judy Ellis, and

Consumption Junction, and Earth Impact: Overconsumption or Sustainability are all available to classrooms in grades 6-12. New this year as a second-day option is Think Twice, a workshop in which students learn about product stewardship and life cycles and how they as consumers and citizens can help influence manufacturers to make sustainable products. To schedule, contact Cole Gainer at 206-583-0655 or by [email](#).

Is Your School a King County Green School?

Did you know that out of King County's 18 school districts, six of them (totaling 161 schools) have benefited from the Green Schools Program? In addition, nine individual schools have received this assistance to set up or improve recycling and other resource conservation practices. Participating schools choose one to three categories in which to set goals. Categories include environmental education; hazardous materials management and reduction; litter reduction; energy conservation; water conservation; indoor air quality; green building; reduction of greenhouse gas emissions; and environmental purchasing. Check to see if your school district or school is on the [list](#). If not, [participate!](#)

Free Help to Improve Your School's Recycling Program

Did you know that your school is eligible to receive free assistance to improve its recycling program and waste reduction practices through the [King County School Recycling & Waste Reduction Assistance Program](#) (SCRAP)? If you want help to improve your school's recycling program, email [Dale Alekel](#) or call 206-296-8457. Through SCRAP, public and private K – 12 schools in

Laurie Nunnelee also helped reposition a fence for goats, removed blackberry bushes without the use of chemicals, and forged trails.

Register your class or environmental club as a Green Team. Contact us by [email](#) or call Sara Gersten-Rothenberg at 206-583-0655.

Teachers can also download or request a [free poster](#) and student [membership cards](#) that demonstrate that students have pledged to Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Rethink. Applications for recognition and rewards such as free water bottles for students that complete [projects](#) are reviewed at the end of each semester.

Ready to Become an Earth Hero at School?

It's not too soon to think about getting recognition for your environmental projects at school. Each year King County recognizes exceptional programs, teachers and other staff, volunteers, and students who implement projects at their schools or beyond. Winners are honored each year at a [reception](#) featuring entertainment, refreshments, and presentation of awards by King County Executive Ron Sims. Last year, King County presented awards to 17 Earth Heroes at School. [Projects](#) ranged from developing environmental education curriculum to improving or expanding recycling programs to creating native plant gardens. Requests for nominations will be available in January 2007 and winners will be notified in March. The awards reception is scheduled for April 19, 2007.

Fast Facts

Use these facts to promote your school recycling program.

- 40% of the material thrown away in Washington State is recyclable paper.
- For every ton of paper that we recycle, we save
 - 17 trees
 - 380 gallons of oil
 - 7,000 gallons of water
 - 4000 kilowatts of energy
 - 3 cubic yards of landfill space.
 - **And we prevent the release of nearly 60 pounds of air pollutants.**
- Recycling collection costs money, but garbage collection is more expensive. Recycling can reduce the cost of garbage collection service for the school district, saving money for other priorities.

Find [more facts](#) about recycling, or use your favorite search engine.

King County can receive

- a site visit or “waste walk-through.”
- recycling containers as needed, and signs for the containers that list what can and cannot be recycled at your school.
- presentations to promote the school's recycling program.
- recycled product tubs (on loan) to show students products made from the materials they recycle.
- hands-on assistance setting up a recycling program, adding materials to an existing program, improving education and promotion about recycling, working with the school's custodian and garbage/recycling hauler, and calculating the increased recycling rate!

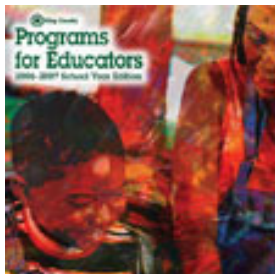
Master Recycler Composter Volunteer Training Starts February 2007

Receive 40 hours of free training in waste prevention, recycling, alternatives to hazardous products, natural yard care and more, and share this knowledge with others in your community. The 2007 MRC training will take place on Tuesday evenings with three Saturday field trips February through March 2007 at Sammamish High School in Bellevue. Residents of King County outside the city of Seattle are eligible for this program. The deadline for submitting [applications](#) is February 2, 2007. Contact [Karen May](#) at 206-296-4353 with questions.

Send Us Your News!

If you have project news, resources, or other ideas to share with teachers in King County, [submit](#) them for future issues of the Class Act newsletter.

Resources



Programs for Educators Directory Now Online

The 2006-2007 Programs for Educators Directory, which describes education programs offered by King County, is now available at [online](#). Paper copies can be requested by contacting Angela Wallis at 206-296-4432 or by [email](#).



Recycling Video Online

Ever wonder what happens to your recyclables after they are picked up? View a [short video](#) (length: 9:53) with an introduction by King County Executive Ron Sims. (RealPlayer required. Free download available).



Free Paint and Other Materials

Before you head to the store to purchase paint, cleaning supplies, or yard care and automotive products, check out what's available for free at the [ReUse Store](#) at 3641 2nd Ave. S. in Seattle. Schools may be interested in the bright color or other

paints that could be used for art projects. One elementary school used free paint to create a colorful mural.

The items you'll find at the [ReUse Store](#) are household products that other King County residents have brought to a household hazardous waste facility. Making these products available to others and using them up as they were intended is the best way to keep them out of the waste system. Schools can make appointments during the week to pick up supplies by calling 206-386-4093.



Waste Free Holidays Program

Give experiences instead of stuff and save resources in the process. King County's [Waste Free Holidays](#) Program identifies businesses and organizations that offer experience gifts at discounts of 15% or more. These experience gifts include concerts, plays, sporting events, recreation, museums, restaurants, massages and much more. The 2006 program runs November 15 -

December 31.



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